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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 21 | Humidity 77% Scattered Showers Sensex 80,716 | Nifty 24,613 | Gold 73,882 | Silver 93,238 | Dollar 83.60 | Euro 91.97 | GBP 108.37

SSLC LOWS

Educationists say exam pressure, rote learning affecting students, teachers burdened with 'out of school' tasks

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SMALL HOPE

Small-scale industries hit by lack of state support; group calls for better infra, financial aid, eradication of corruption

PAGE 5

With 255 cases, maximum encroachment registered from KR Puram range, followed by 244 cases from Kaggalipura range that has highest amount of forest land to be retrieved

URBAN JUNGLE TOOK

Conservationists put blame squarely on forest department officials

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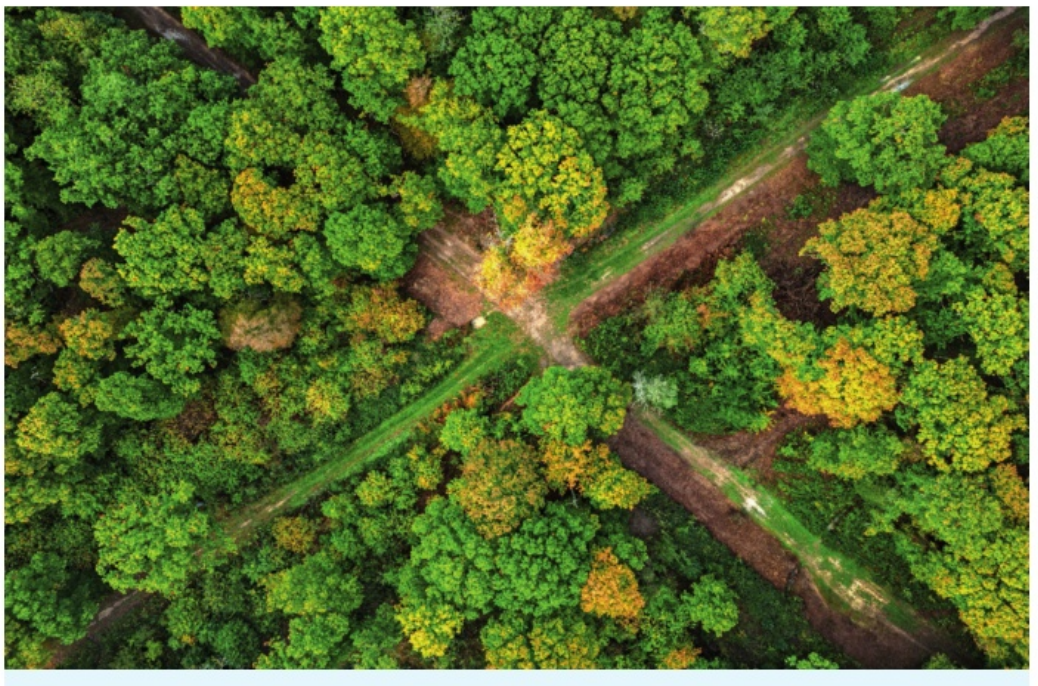

Of nearly 25,000 acres of total forest land, Bengaluru urban district has lost more than 2,045 acres to encroachments, according to data presented in the Karnataka Legislative Council on Monday.

So far, 705 encroachment cases have been registered across all five ranges of Bengaluru urban district. The maximum number of encroachment cases (255) has been registered from KR Puram range, followed by 244 cases from Kaggalipura range, 90 encroachment cases from Anekal range, 84 cases from Bengaluru range, and 32 cases from Yelahanka range.

Kaggalipura range has the highest amount of forest land (over 945 acres) to be recovered from illegal occupiers. KR Puram range has nearly 571 acres to be retrieved, followed by 357 acres in Anekal range, 104 acres in Bengaluru range, and 65 acres in Yelahanka range.

Wildlife conservationists and activists say such a large number of encroachment cases indicates that forest department officials have failed in their duties.

"It is the primary duty of beat guards and deputy range forest officers to prevent encroachment of forest areas. Any dereliction of duty has to be reported to the higher officials by range forest officers so disciplinary actions can be initiated. However, RFOs are not following these rules, leading to a large number of cases. Encroachments are supposed to be noted during beat perambulation exercise. However, no actions are being taken against illegal occupants," said

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> **"Section 64A of the Karnataka Forest Act talks about encroachment of forest land and ways to evict encroachers. The Act also has a provision to be used by forest department officials for forced eviction**
>
> — Wildlife activist

Power consumers switch off

Electricity consumption dips due to rainfall; lower agri and residential use

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The widespread rainfall across the state has resulted in a decline in electricity consumption. Following peak demands of 8,381 MW in April and 8,444 MW in May, power demand has now subsided to 6,954 MW in July. This decrease of approximately 1,500 MW compared to the summer highs is primarily attributed to cooler temperatures and reduced humidity brought about by the rains. Consequently, there has been a reduced reliance on air conditioners and other electrical appliances.

An official said, "The agricultural sector, a major consumer of electricity, has experienced a reduction in demand following the recent rainfall. With approximately 9.83 lakh agricultural pump sets in operation statewide, there has been a noticeable decrease in power usage from this sector due to rainfall. Similarly, the industrial sector, comprising around 1.78 lakh power connections, has also reported a decline in electricity demand. In the domestic sector, which accounts for approximately 91.47 lakh power connections, reduced appliance usage has contributed to a decrease in overall power consumption."

As per the Energy Department, the total power demand in the state has decreased

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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Music, poetry open mic

Looking for a platform for your first foray into the world of music or poetry performances but worried you might break a string, lose your voice, or present to a crowd who barely knows you? Better to know what it`s like to find yourself nervous, unready at this stage than on one that takes a lot more organization to reach. At this open mic, the musically talented or those penning their own poems are encouraged to come forward and take on the spotlight, try their piece and have it heard by a fresh pair of ears.
Where: The Circular Space; When: 27 July, 6.30 pm

02 Enchanting sufi nights

G Connect deeply with your inner self through serene rituals and Sufi traditions. Experience the rich beauty of Sufi poetry and dance, embracing timeless wisdom. Mystic Avi guides you to a night of divine enchantment and soulful melody.
Where: Healing Studioz KPCL; When: 20 July and 3 August, 7 pm

03 Dance fitness workshop

Are you tired of the same old workout routine? Looking for a fun and effective way to get fit while dancing your heart out? Look no further! New York Dance Classes welcomes you to a Dance Fitness Workshop to revolutionise your fitness journey. **Where: New York Dance Classes; When: 16 July to 31 July, 5 slots available from 8 am to 8 pm**

Lunch time

A man feeds bird seeds for a flock of pigeons near Cubbon park in Bengaluru on Tuesday

Poor show in SSLC results: Teachers & students suffer

While students struggle with rote learning and severe exam pressure, teachers are burdened with 'out of school' responsibilities to focus on

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In 2024, SSLC recorded a 73.40% pass rate, while 99.26% of students passed the CBSE and 99.83% of students studying the ICSE syllabus cleared. This is not just a trend for one year, as it has been continuing for a long time. For example, in 2023, SSLC results were 83.89%, compared to 99.55% in CBSE and 98.94% in ICSE. During the round table conference on improving Karnataka State School Educational Quality on Tuesday, Dr HS Ganesha Bhatta (former principal, MES Teachers' College, Malleswaram), Poornima Hegde, and Dr. HK Prabhu (both serving as Assistant Professors at MES Teachers' College, Malleswaram) came up with an analysis. According to this, the SSLC exam in Karnataka follows a state-specific curriculum and exam pattern, which is different from the CBSE and ICSE boards. The syllabus and exam pattern variations contribute to the differences in student performance across the boards.

Another factor is the disparity in teacher training and support between the boards. CBSE and ICSE schools generally invest more resources in teacher development and professional training, leading to more effective teaching methods and student engagement compared to SSLC schools, claims the report.

Teachers in state syllabus schools felt that there were too many co-activities, including deployment for census, election duty etc, which forces them away from classroom activities

"SSLC schools often focus more on rote learning rather than conceptual understanding, stressing passing percentages over true comprehension of the subjects. Additionally, students face increased examination stress and pressure due to the numerous preparatory exams conducted by the board and school associations, as well as the requirement to complete portions by December instead of February. The shortage of teachers in certain districts also contributes to the lower quality of education in SSLC schools. In some cases, one teacher handles multiple grades and subjects, which inevitably leads to a decrease in teaching effectiveness compared to teachers in other schools," said the report.

In some cases, one teacher handles multiple grades and subjects, which inevitably leads to a decrease in teaching effectiveness

To improve SSLC results, a comprehensive approach is necessary, involving support from teachers, parents, administrators, and the education system. Additionally, question papers should be bilingual, which helps students to get a better understanding of questions.

The report stated that changes in textbook content frequently get changed. A section of teachers felt that some textual matters appear to be tougher than PU classes. The teachers in state syllabus schools also felt that there were too many co-activities, including deployment for other activities like census, election duty, etc. This forces the teachers away from classroom activities.

Drug bust: Marijuana, MDMA worth Rs 26 lakh seized

Anti Narcotics Wing arrests 5 drug peddlers; marijuana dealer also held

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File photo of ganja and other narcotics seized by city police

Bengaluru is witnessing an alarming increase in drug trafficking activities. The Anti Narcotics Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) made a significant breakthrough last Friday with the arrest of five drug peddlers, including two foreign nationals. The operation resulted in the seizure of marijuana and MDMA crystals worth ₹26,00,000, along with various items used in the drug trafficking operation.

Acting on a tip-off, CCB officers conducted a raid in Varthur Police Station limits and apprehended a local suspect. The authorities seized 19.9 grams of MDMA crystals valued at approximately ₹2,00,000, along with paraphernalia used in the crime. The accused was reportedly involved in purchasing MDMA at low prices and reselling it at a premium to his customers. He has been booked, and further investigations are underway.

In another operation, the Seshadripuram Police arrested a man, who hails from Odisha, near the BBMP playground in possession of 1 kg of ganja. The suspect, who had a history of drug-related offenses, was found to have an additional 7 kg of ganja at his friend's residence in Electronic City.

This led to further seizures, including 900 grams of ganja from an accomplice in Shivajinagar, who had a criminal record of attempted murder and robbery. Both suspects have been remanded in judicial custody, while efforts to locate an absconding accomplice continue.

Marijuana and MDMA are among seized drugs from all peddlers; in one of the cases, accused used to buy MDMA at low prices to sell it to customers at premium price

House helps held for burglary

The police nabbed a domestic help in two high-profile burglary cases, and recovered valuables worth ₹65 lakh.

The Sadashivanagar police have apprehended a domestic help, a gardener, and a guard for allegedly burgling their employer's apartment, escaping with valuables worth ₹30 lakh. The accused, who hail from Bihar, were hired only a month before the incident.

The owner had entrusted them with the keys to perform their duties while the family was away in Ooty this July. Exploiting the situation, the trio reportedly broke into cupboards and lockers using a machete and hammers, stealing gold and silver articles, idols, silk saris, electronic gadgets, and watches. The police tracked the culprits to Darbhanga, Bihar, and arrested them.

In another case, the Kengeri police arrested a domestic help and recovered valuables worth ₹35 lakh. The theft occurred between April and July last year. Initially denying the allegations, the accused confessed after undergoing brain mapping and a polygraph test.

Police Commissioner B Dayananda announced a cash reward of ₹25,000 for each team.

BEHAVE, STAY IN YOUR LANE

The Bengaluru Traffic Police initiated a lane discipline campaign on Tuesday along Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) Road to mitigate traffic congestion and curb accidents.

According to officials, all drivers on KIA Road (BB Road - NH-44) under the jurisdiction of the Bengaluru City Police are required to adhere to designated lanes, with penalties imposed on violators.

Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) must utilise the extreme left lane, fast-moving vehicles should stay in the middle lane, and overtaking is allowed only on the extreme right lane.

MN Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), emphasised that the campaign's goal is to improve traffic flow, enhance road safety, and reduce accidents. He called on all road users to comply with these guidelines to achieve safer and more efficient roadways.

Bill mandating appointment of locals cleared

The Karnataka Cabinet has cleared a bill mandating appointment of local candidates in 50% of management positions and 75% non-management positions in industries, factories and other establishments. Titled Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories and Other Establishments Bill, 2024, the bill was cleared by a cabinet meeting headed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday. The bill is likely to be tabled in the ongoing monsoon legislature session.

According to the bill, a local person is one "who is born in the state of Karnataka and who is domiciled in the state for a period of 15 years and who is capable of speaking, reading and writing Kannada in a legible way and has passed a required test conducted by the nodal agency."

If the said candidate does not have a secondary school certificate with Kannada as a language, they must undergo a Kannada proficiency test conducted by a nodal agency notified by the government. In case industries and establishments are unable to find suitable or qualified local candidates for employment, they must, in collaboration with government authorities, implement measures to train local candidates within a span of three years.

With regard to relaxations, the bill says, "If sufficient number of local candidates are not available, then an industry or factory or other establishments may apply for relaxation from the provisions of this Act to the government, and after due enquiry, the government may pass appropriate orders and such orders passed by the government shall be final."

The bill has noted that failure to comply with the designated percentages in management positions and non-management categories may attract penalties amounting between Rs 10,000 and Rs 25,000.

The move comes in the backdrop of consistent demand for job reservations for Kannadigas. Earlier this month, Kannada organisations held rallies across the state with the demand of implementing the Sarojini Mahishi report which recommends designating a quota for locals in government as well as private sector jobs. Mahishi is the first woman MP from Karnataka and a former union minister who headed the Mahishi Committee which submitted its finding in 1984. It had recommended 100% reservation for locals in group C and D jobs in central government departments and PSUs operating in Karnataka, among 57 other recommendations. **BMB**

Gauri Lankesh murder: 3 accused granted bail

Three accused persons in the murder case of activist and journalist Gauri Lankesh have been granted bail by the Karnataka High Court on Tuesday.

Bail was granted to Amit Digvekar, KT Naveen Kumar and HL Suresh by Justice S Vishwajith Shetty of the Kalaburagi bench. The orders of bail for the three applications were reserved on July 2.

All the three accused who have received bail cited the case of their co-accused Mohan Nayak, who was granted bail in December 2023 by the High Court of Karnataka on the grounds of delay in trial.

Nayak, pointing towards delay in conclusion of the trial, had noted that there were a total of 527 chargesheet witnesses in the case, but only 90 had been examined at the time.

The state opposed the bail pleas of the three accused by citing the order of the Dharwad bench of the High Court which had earlier rejected the bail applications of those accused in the killing of scholar and activist MM Kalaburgi.

A Kendriya Sahitya Akademi awardee and a frontier of anti-superstition, Kalaburgi, was shot dead in his residence in Dharwad on August 30, 2015.

Lankesh, the editor of Gauri Lankesh Patrike and a strong voice against Hindutva groups, was shot dead outside her residence in Rajarajeshwari Nagar in the city while returning from work during late hours of September 5, 2017 by a group of men.

It is to be noted that Mohan Nayak was denied bail earlier on two occasions and was lodged in prison from July 2018.

After he was granted bail, Lankesh's sister, Kavita moved the Supreme Court against his bail. The High Court while granting him bail had noted that the charges levied against him did not amount to a life term or death sentence under the Karnataka Control of Organised Crime Act, 2000, under which he has been booked. **BMB**

BBMP under fire for garbage problems in Pulakeshinagar

Months of neglect by authorities leave footpaths unusable and in urgent need of clean sweep

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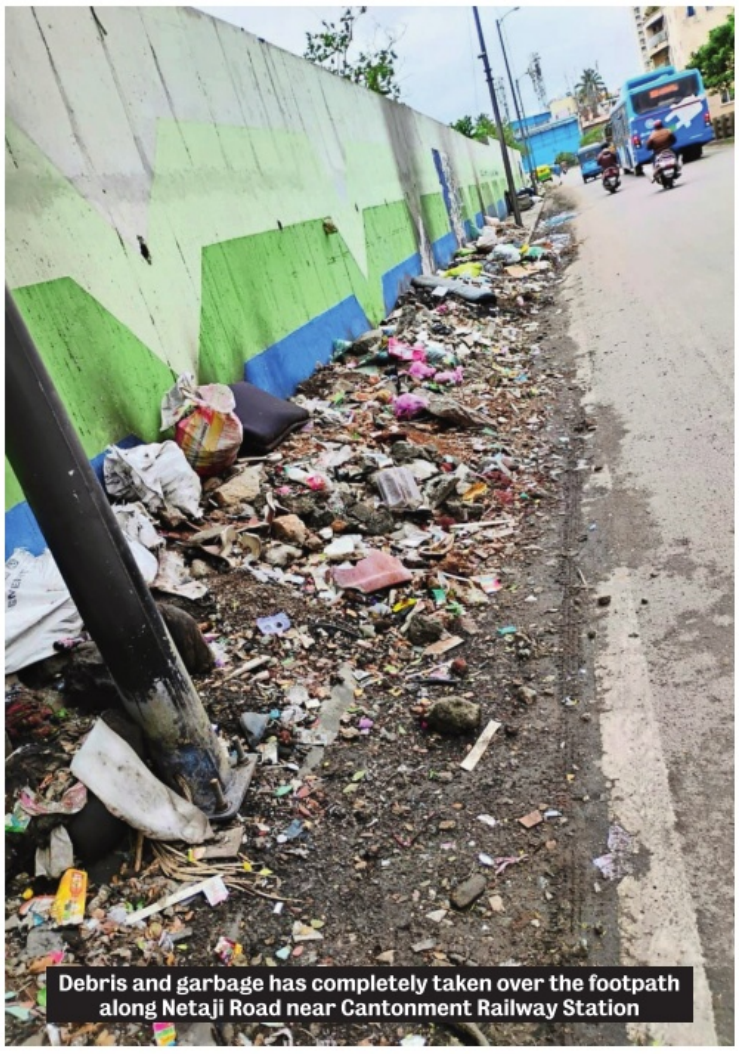
The condition of a few roads in the Pulakeshinagar Assembly constituency raises questions about the effectiveness of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). It highlights how litterbugs contribute to persistent black spots. It has become routine for the BBMP Solid Waste Management Department to blame residents for dumping garbage at their discretion. In contrast, residents complain about the irregular collection of garbage from door to door in Pulakeshinagar.

For example, the condition of the footpath along Netaji Road near Cantonment Railway Station is appalling and threatens to tarnish the reputation of the BBMP Solid Waste Management Department. The footpath is cluttered with garbage, leaving no space for pedestrians to walk.

"The condition of the footpath is quite shocking and disgusting. The footpath is just 200 metres away from Minister for Minorities Development, Zamir Ahmed Khan's residence. I wonder what has prevented the BBMP Solid Waste Management Department from ensuring this stretch free from garbage," said Maria Hussain, a volunteer of Aam Aadmi Party.



Debris and garbage has completely taken over the footpath along Netaji Road near Cantonment Railway Station

Around 200 metres of the footpath is full of all types of garbage. The residents, especially motorists, complain that the stretch is not only a health hazard but also an eyesore. "I pass through this road daily. I reside at RT Nagar and commute to my workplace at Pulakeshinagar on this road. I have been observing this stretch for months, hoping for action from the authorities, but to no avail. I urge the BBMP authorities to take measures to ensure cleanliness on this road," said Shashavali, a resident.

Expressing a similar opinion, Zubair Ali, a resident of Benson Town, has said that he too passes through this road every day and is fed up with black spots on the road. "We have complained to the BBMP authorities but nothing has been done to make this road free from garbage. Many residents complain about irregular door-to-door garbage collection. What should residents do if BBMP workers only collect garbage once a week?" asks Zubair Ali.

> **"We have complained to the BBMP but nothing has been done. Many residents complain about irregular door-to-door garbage collection** – Resident of area

He demanded the elected representatives direct the BBMP authorities to keep the roads and footpaths clean in the Pulakeshinagar Assembly constituency for the benefit of pedestrians and motorists. "There is no improvement in the condition of roads and footpaths all these years irrespective of the elected representative's political affiliation," he said.

Meanwhile, Pulakeshinagar Executive Engineer has assured to look into the matter. "I will direct my subordinate to fix this problem," he said.

Dengue fears rise as Moore Road drowns in sewage

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Amidst rising dengue cases in the city, residents of Moore Road are grappling with overflowing sewage on their streets. Despite filing complaints, residents say Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board has failed to take action. As dengue cases rise in the city and BBMP ramps up efforts to control its spread, BWSSB officials have neglected to address flowing sewage on Moore Road for 3-4 months. Residents report that a broken sewage pipeline on Moore Road has caused sewage to overflow onto the street, hindering vehicle passage. The stagnant water has also contributed to increased mosquito breeding in the area.

Overflow of sewage has turned area into mosquito breeding ground, which is dangerous as it is dengue season right now

A house owner in the area alleged that he filed a written complaint to BWSSB three years ago. "Roughly three years ago, during a cable laying down work, the sewage pipeline work was damaged. We had lodged a complaint with BWSSB to repair the pipeline, but only temporary measures were taken. Despite this, BWSSB did not take any further action, forcing me to move to Horamavu. Now, roughly 3-4 months ago, the pipeline has started leaking onto the road again. The road covered in sewage has made it difficult to live and walk in the area. Our well has also become contaminated with sewage ingress" said Nagraj, a homeowner.

Residents insist that officials should replace the sewage pipelines to permanently fix the leak.

Residents say that BWSSB officials are turning a blind eye, raising the fear of dengue spread. "There is a stinking smell emanating from the road due to the sewage leak. Sewage leaking from the broken pipe continually flows on the road and the whole road is covered with water. When vehicles pass by sewage, they splash the water everywhere. Due to the increase in mosquitoes, there is a fear of dengue spreading. " said Syed, a resident of Benson town and a frequent visitor of Moore Road.

Shop owners complain of loss of business due to stinking mess. "Due to the sewage leak, we are experiencing losses in business. There has been an increase in mosquitoes, and the road consistently emits a foul odour. People avoid coming to the area because of the sewage leak problem. Speeding vehicles splash sewage water on shops and customers. Due to constant sewage flow, the road has also started disintegrating" said Azam, a mobile shop owner in the area.

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Problems in your area?
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Fly infestation

Indiranagar

Flies have increased near Atta Galatta in Indiranagar because of the dumped tender coconuts.

Drainage crisis

Kadugodi

Construction of a house on 4th Cross, Belathur-Kadugodi Road, is causing major drainage issues, inconveniencing school children and commuters with severe waterlogging and almost making the road inaccessible in the day.

Poor construction

Kempegowda Road

Kempegowda Road near Maharaja Parking Complex is in bad shape. Poor workmanship has caused iron rods to stick out from the concrete.

HC dismisses appeal on land acquisition after 44 years

The High Court, while dismissing an appeal, stated, "Forty-four years is too long a time to maintain legal action. With the passage of such protracted time, the right to relief is lost." The appeal questioned a land acquisition proceeding initiated and completed in 1978. A division bench of Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice KV Aravind dismissed the petition filed by Vinod Kumar K.

The appellant, who was the petitioner in the writ petition, filed the present appeal under Section 4 of the Karnataka High Court Act, 1961. The appeal was directed against the judgment and order dated January 24, 2024, of a single judge. The writ petition, filed under Article 226 of the Constitution, prayed to call for records pertaining to the proceedings initiated in Land Acquisition Case No. 692 of 1978 and in Land Acquisition Case No. 228 of 1982. The petitioner further prayed to direct the respondents to initiate proceedings and to pass the award under Section 11 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

The single judge dismissed the petition, observing that the petitioner's properties were acquired by the preliminary notification passed in 1977 and the final notification passed in 1978.

When the Court questioned the learned advocate for the appellant about the inordinate delay, he could only point out the averments made in paragraph 33 of the petition, which stated that the petitioner came to know for the first time in the last week of December 2018 that the compensation was not paid. Even after the petitioner claimed knowledge in 2018, there was a subsequent delay of three years.

Appeal questioned land acquisition proceeding initiated and completed in 1978; court says right to relief lost

"As regards the grievance about the compensation, it is kept open for the petitioner to make a representation to the competent authority-respondent. The competent authority shall examine the said aspect and take appropriate decisions in accordance with the law," the court said. —BMB

Small-scale industries struggle due to lack of state support

KASSIA president calls for better infrastructure, financial assistance, and reduced corruption to help SSIs thrive

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Small-scale industries lag in terms of basic infrastructure and financial assistance from state govt

Small-scale industries continue to lag in terms of basic infrastructure, including financial assistance and support from financial institutions and the state government. It is not difficult to conclude the so-called support and assistance from the state government when one learns that only 6 per cent of small-scale industries operate from designated industrial estates.

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror, Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) president Rajagopal MG said the majority of small-scale industries operate in private industrial estates and residential areas due to a lack of industrial estates meant for small-scale industrial units. "We have been requesting the state government to allocate land for industrial estates exclusively for SSIs but in vain. There is no one to look after our welfare even though the SSIs provide jobs for lakhs of people," said Rajagopal.

The KASSIA president noted that it would be difficult for SSIs to operate from industrial areas situated away from Bengaluru. "It is not viable for SSIs from Bengaluru to shift to Dabaspet Industrial Area. Most of the workers may not agree to commute between Bengaluru and Dabaspet daily as it involves extra costs for them. So, it is the state government which has to come forward to allocate land around Bengaluru for the benefit of SSIs," he said.

He mentioned that although some small-scale industrialists want to relocate their units to rural areas, rampant corruption among the Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) deters them from going ahead with their plans. "Electricity is the lifeline for any industry to function. The problem with BESCOM authorities is that they insist small-scale industrialists bear the cost of electric poles and other expenses. Is it possible for a small-scale industrialist to bear such a huge cost apart from paying the bribe?" he asked.

Stating that no financial institution is ready to provide loans to SSIs without demanding collateral security, he said that he has never come across any bank or financial institution showcasing banners or posters on the schemes meant for SSIs at their respective premises.

He said that the KASSIA delegation attended a meeting convened by the MSME Division of Financial Inclusion & Development Department, Reserve Bank of India. He mentioned that a gist of the issues related to micro and small-scale enterprises was submitted to RBI Deputy Governors M. Rajeshwar Rao and J Swaminathan.

The demands include reinstating the 59-minute loan approval mechanism for MSMEs, particularly under central government schemes, and eliminating the need for the renewal of the cash credit facility for working capital arrangements on an annual basis. They also requested that the requirement for submitting stock statements to the bank be made half-yearly or yearly, to expedite the approval process for loans, focusing on accelerating the application process for central government schemes and facilitating faster access to much-needed funds online. Another demand is for banks to evaluate loan approvals linked to GST payments and available cash flow for the short term. This would help prevent the tying up of working capital due to demands for statutory compliance and customise banking services by creating separate lists for manufacturers and traders in the MSME sector.

"It is not viable for SSIs from B'luru to shift to Dabaspet Industrial Area. Most of the workers may not agree to commute between Bengaluru and Dabaspet daily as it involves extra costs for them —Rajagopal MG, president, KASSIA

IN BRIEF

BBMP commences microsurfacing on ORR flyovers

After months of persistent follow-ups and escalations by the Mahadevpura Task Force and local commuters, the Bangalore Bruhat Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Traffic Engineering Cell has commenced micro-surfacing work on the flyovers of the Outer Ring Road (ORR). This project aims to address one of the major complaints from daily commuters: the damaged road surfaces on these critical flyover sections.

Microsurfacing, a type of Stone Mastic Asphalting, is known for its superior adhesion properties and enhanced water resistance. Unlike traditional asphalting methods, micro-surfacing can be applied as a thinner layer on concrete surfaces, making it a cost-effective solution with a longer lifespan.

"The road surface on these flyovers was in bad condition," said Clement Jayakumar from the Mahadevpura Task Force. "We escalated the issue to the BBMP Chief Commissioner and the Engineer-in-Chief, and they allocated specific funds for this work. The damaged stretches were causing significant inconvenience to commuters," he added.

BBMP's Traffic Engineering Cell is overseeing the micro-surfacing work, which is being carried out during night hours to minimise disruption to daily traffic. The ORR has six flyovers, all of which will undergo this upgrade.

"This particular type of asphalt is more expensive than regular asphalt, but it's worth it because of its water resistance properties and the fact that it can be applied in thinner layers. Thick layers tend to chip off faster, so this method should ensure the flyovers remain in good condition for a longer period," Jayakumar explained.

Commuters appreciated the efforts. "Smooth flyovers are essential for safe and efficient travel, especially during peak hours when traffic is at its worst," said a daily commuter.

—Iffath Fathima

Double-decker flyover opens today

Flyover, stretches over 3.3 km, from Ragigudda to Central Silk Board; upper deck is for metro and lower for vehicles

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Finally, the wait is over as the city's first double-decker flyover will be opened to traffic from Wednesday. Although the flyover was ready a while ago, traffic was not allowed due to the pending official inauguration. Now, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar will officially launch the flyover. This flyover is situated along the Yellow Line metro route (connecting RV Road to Bommasandra). The double-decker flyover, extending over 3.3 km, stretches from Ragigudda to Central Silk Board (CSB). The upper deck of the flyover is designated for the metro train's operation, while the lower deck will accommodate vehicular traffic.

This 3.3 km long flyover, located on the RV Road-Bommasandra Metro (Yellow) line, includes a road on the ground level, a first-level flyover allowing vehicles, and a metro rail on the topmost level. This double-decker flyover is a unique feature of the Yellow Line metro route, incorporating both road and rail transit. This innovative system is not available anywhere else in the country. The construction began in 2021 after razing the Jayadeva Circle flyover and was initially slated for completion within the same year. However, due to factors such as design changes and the impact of COVID-19, the project was delayed by two years. Now, the work is in its final stages.

Furthermore, construction is underway for five ramps (A, B, C, D, and E) at the CSB junction. Ramps A, B, and C will link to KR Puram and Hosur Road, while D and E will connect to BTM Layout and Ragigudda. Metro officials have assured that the ramp construction will not disrupt traffic flow. Completion of the ramps is anticipated by next year. The CSB junction is set to feature two metro stations, one on the Blue Line (CSB-KR Puram) and the other on the Yellow Line (RV Road-Bommasandra), connected by a travelator spanning a mere 500 meters. The BMRC intends to construct this travelator to facilitate seamless movement between the two stations.

The double-decker flyover from Ragigudda to Central Silk Board

Notably, the double-decker flyover stands at 8 meters in height, whereas the metro viaduct reaches 16 meters high. Clearance for traffic flow from Ragigudda to Central Silk Board has been obtained, promising a reduction in traffic congestion.

Raghav Kulkarni, a regular commuter, said, "We are tired of traffic jams on the road. Now, the completion of the double-decker flyover and the upcoming connectivity between metro stations at the CSB junction signify a remarkable leap in urban infrastructure development. This integrated transportation network will greatly benefit commuters, offering them efficient and convenient travel options." Sukanya Kashyap, another regular commuter, added, "This infrastructure upgrade is a game-changer for commuters, as it not only eases traffic congestion but also promotes sustainable transportation solutions. With the completion of these projects, commuters can expect reduced travel times, improved connectivity, and enhanced accessibility across different parts of the city."

> **"This integrated network will greatly benefit commuters, offering them efficient & convenient travel options**
> –Raghav Kulkarni, a regular commuter

Officials stated that once vehicles ascend the double-decker flyover, there is no midway descent, effectively easing traffic congestion and enabling signal-free travel, as noted by BMRCL officials.

Coordination mooted among civic agencies

In Bengaluru, the persistent issue of poor coordination among various agencies has led to significant infrastructure inefficiencies. Often, newly laid roads by BBMP are dug up shortly after by agencies like BWSSB or BESCOM for utility installations, causing frustration among taxpayers. To address these ongoing challenges, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar has announced plans for a crucial meeting on July 27 with city MLAs and MPs. The aim is to strategize and enhance coordination among agencies responsible for critical aspects like traffic management, water supply, waste disposal, street lighting, and tax collection.

Acknowledging concerns raised by opposition leaders and legislators about the lack of effective collaboration, Shivakumar highlighted past efforts to improve coordination but admitted to only partial success. The upcoming meeting seeks to build on these efforts with hopes of resolving longstanding issues that impact citizens daily.

Citizens like exemplify public frustration, citing instances where newly constructed infrastructure is quickly disrupted due to lack of coordination. They emphasise the urgent need for sustained and effective cooperation among agencies to enhance Bengaluru's quality of life.

While optimistic about the proposed meeting's potential, concerns remain about the longevity and effectiveness of any improvements. Previous initiatives under former Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai saw promising starts but lacked continuity, reverting Bengaluru to familiar problems.

—Sridhar Vivan

BM Education
ADVERTORIAL PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

BTech in Agriculture Engineering: The future of farming

In the ever-evolving landscape of agriculture, engineering practices are at the forefront of a sustainable revolution. As the world faces challenges such as climate change, resource scarcity, and a growing global population, the need for innovative solutions in agriculture has never been more crucial. As agricultural engineering evolves to address modern challenges and incorporate innovative technologies, educational institutions are offering courses that reflect these trends.

REVA University, located in Yelahanka, is now offering a B. Tech in Agricultural Engineering. "This undergraduate program is a fusion of engineering principles and agricultural sciences, offering students an interdisciplinary education that goes beyond traditional boundaries. The program has state-of-the-art labs and simulated agricultural settings. The curriculum in Agricultural Engineering is infused with the latest technology. Students delve into the world of innovative farming equipment, where they not only learn to operate and maintain machinery but also explore ways to enhance efficiency through technological advancements. Moreover, agricultural engineering graduates can benefit from strong collaborations with leading agriculture equipment manufacturers, seed processing industries, irrigation companies, and dairy farming enterprises," said a release.

REVA University Chancellor Dr P Shyama Raju, who has initiated the REVA Krushi Tech Project (RKTP), said: "It is more than an academic initiative; it's an embodiment of a vision for education that intertwines entrepreneurship and ecological sustenance." With a strong

commitment to fostering a culture of self-reliance and sustainable practices, REVA University aims to inspire the next generation of leaders in agriculture and environmental conservation through RKTP. Be it Precision Agriculture, Automation and Robotics, or integrating agriculture technology, the agriculture sector is moving ahead with the use of innovative solutions and technology. At the Department of Agricultural Engineering at REVA University, our integrated curriculum is a testament to our dedication to providing students with an education that goes beyond textbooks. Agricultural engineers are leveraging precision agriculture tools to design and implement smart farming systems. Additionally, from drones for crop monitoring to robotic arms for precision tasks, automation is becoming an integral part of the engineer's toolkit. Agricultural technology (AgTech) is reshaping the industry. Data analytics, IoT sensors, and smart farming applications are providing farmers with valuable insights for decision-making."

HEALTH TIP: Vitamin B-12 plays a key role in producing brain chemicals that affect mood and other brain functions

Vitamin B-12 is majorly found in poultry, meat, fish, and dairy products

BangaloreMirror | 7
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TAKE IT EASY

10 simple ways to relieve stress and anxiety

1 Breathe

If you are looking for instant stress relief, take a step away from whatever you are doing, and give yourself a moment or two of deep breathing. Stress hormones affect the respiratory and cardiovascular systems. During the stress response, the body is conditioned to breathe faster to quickly distribute oxygen-rich blood to your body. Pre-existing conditions such as asthma or anxiety can make it worse. In those couple minutes of deep breathing, try to shift your focus from all stressors to breathing. A good rule of thumb is to breathe in for a count of four, hold for 1 or 2 and then release for 8.

Tip: Fifteen minutes of meditation every morning before work and every night after work can help you refocus your thoughts and control your mind.

2 Chew Some Gum

Another way to instantly feel less stressed. A 2008 study out of Swinburne University found that people who chew gum while multitasking under stress had lower cortisol levels, reduced levels of stress and anxiety, and increased levels of alertness and performance. Another 2009 study at NICM Collaborative Centre for the Study of Natural Medicines and Neurocognition, Australia, found that chewing gum can improve a negative mood, and increase levels of peace and calm. Chewing gum causes brain waves similar to those of relaxed people. Chewing gum promotes blood flow to your brain as well.

Tip: Toss one for when you are feeling anxious. Don't make it a habit or chew on it for hours together—it erodes your teeth and releases mercury amongst other side effects.

3 Organise

If your stress incoming from a feeling of overwhelm, pause for a second to make for yourself a sustainable plan of action to follow. Relieve yourself for the stress that comes from not knowing how to go about something or not being able to find what you need when you need it. It is always good to start a long day with timed to-do lists and even better to ensure that you work in a clean environment, on a desk, for example, where everything is in place, your food would be ready when it is time to eat, etc.

Tip: If you like arranging and rearranging stuff, you can keep some portions of your room undone for when the need arises. Or, redo the entire room once again—as long as it calms you.

4 Exercise

It may not be what you wanted to hear, but regular exercise (defined as at least 30 minutes of semi-rigorous movement 5 times a week) is directly linked to better moods and coping abilities. Exercise also regulates the hormones of the body, while it reduces levels of the body's stress hormones, such as adrenaline and cortisol, it also stimulates the production of endorphins, chemicals in the brain that are the body's natural painkillers and mood elevators, having both short-and long-term bearings on reduction of stress.

5 Eat Better!

Not that you need to change everything about what you are and follow some influencer's diet to the T, eating better can definitely mean choosing healthier alternatives and reducing the junk. Every once in a while, eat fruit for dessert, swap your carbonated drink for a cup of tea, and such small changes and choices.

Eating a healthy diet can reduce the negative effects of stress on your body, building a stronger immune and nervous system that is more equipped to deal with stress. Hormones are also better regulated when you are eating your greens.

Remember, too stringent a diet can also become a contributor to stress, it is completely alright to give in to the occasional craving, just know to strike the balance.

Tip: Eating healthy and eating right are the two most important factors responsible for keeping your health, mind and body in check.

6 Always Catch Up On Your Sleep

Stress and sleep are more closely linked than they seem. Stress can adversely affect sleep quality and duration, while the lack of sleep can increase stress levels. Both stress and a lack of sleep can lead to lasting physical and mental health problems. Once you have had the amount of quality sleep that your body requires, the brain and the systems it controls are able to function better, ensuring better efficiency and therefore reducing stress. A fixed window for bedtime is a good way to ensure you would fall asleep faster with sound, quality sleep.

7. Are There Any Deficiencies?

If you have found yourself constantly stressed or flustered, get your blood tested. Stress depletes nutrients such as magnesium and iron faster and lowers nutrients can lead to heightened feelings of stress, it is a vicious cycle! A lack of vitamin B, for example, is quite common, with about 1cr cases per annum in India alone. The symptoms of fatigue and shaky memory can be frustrating, and unproductive and add to your worries. Consider speaking with your physician about starting supplements, several of which can even alleviate anxiety along with reducing stress.

Tip: Get yourself regularly checked for deficiencies or other possible health conditions to stay up-to-date on your health charts.

8 Curb caffeine

While coffee can give you the jolt that you need in the morning, it can also be a contributor to stress. The stimulant caffeine and stress can both elevate cortisol levels. High amounts of caffeine can lead to the negative health effects associated with prolonged elevated levels of cortisol (as in chronic stress). Its jittery effects on your body are similar to those of a frightening event. Regulation is crucial and any more than five cups a day is excessive. Alcohol and nicotine consumption is also something to monitor. Depressants in nature can magnify negative moods and feelings, including stress.

Tip: Drinking copious amounts of coffee is not as glamorous as they show on TV. Restrict your coffee intake up to two or three cups each day.

9 Focus On Mindful Eating

You have heard it before, prevention is better than cure. Know what you have on your plate and plan for it in a way that causes you the least stress, if it remains to cause a major strain, evaluate the worth at the cost, is it worth the pressure it is causing? Not all stressors are within your control, but some are. Take charge of the parts of your life that you can change and are causing you stress. Whatever does remain, know to get it done sufficiently in time, procrastination will only leave you with less time and you will have to get reactive instead of proactive, not being able to do your best.

Tip: Chew doesn't gulp!

10 Find A Hobby!

When you know you have a major, unavoidable stressor ahead of you, it is wise to find a hobby that can help you blow off the steam. Providing a responsibility-free time in one's schedule can be something to look forward to. Depending on what you pick, having a hobby can have many added benefits such as improved motor skills, sharper memory and better sleep. Just remember to pick something you would genuinely enjoy and find engaging and meaningful.

—Yosha Khurana, Femina

All you need to know about...

Massage's effect on pain

No evidence

"No high-certainty evidence" that massage is effective in treating pain, despite "hundreds of clinical trials and dozens of previous scientific reviews on the topic", researchers said in a study.

According to the findings, published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open, reviews providing moderate- or high-certainty evidence that massage was superior to other pain therapies, such as opioids, were rare.

Massage therapy

Massage therapy involves using hands to manipulate the soft tissues of skin, muscles and ligaments for treating pain, and is usually delivered by certified therapists.

Despite massage therapy's popularity and long history in practice, evidence regarding its benefits remain limited, according to the researchers, including those from the University of California, US.

Inconclusive

Analysing 129 reviews published since 2018, they found that of these, only 41 used a formal method to rate the strength of evidence used to show that massage therapy helped relieve painful health conditions in adults.

Of the 41, the authors focused on 17 relating to 13 different health conditions, such as back pain and cancer-related pain. "Across these reviews, no conclusions were rated as high certainty of evidence," the authors wrote in the study.

While the evidence presented in seven of the 17 reviews were rated as "moderate-certainty," others were rated as "low- or very low-certainty," according to the study.

Evidence of moderate certainty came from reviews showing massage therapy to have "beneficial associations with pain," the authors said.

"More high-quality randomised clinical trials are needed to provide a stronger evidence base to assess the effect of massage therapy on pain," they wrote. **PTI**

Bengaluru urban has lost over 2,045 acres to encroachments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a city-based conservationist.

Experts underline that the Karnataka Forest Act provides for various measures for eviction of an unauthorised occupant from forest land. However, these rules are not being utilised.

"Section 64A of the Karnataka Forest Act talks about encroachment of forest land and ways to evict encroachers. The Act also has a provision to be used by forest department officials for forced eviction. There are many other measures, including police support, available to retrieve encroached forest land. Rules also say that a chargesheet has to be filed within 15 days of forest-related cases. However, these rules and guidelines have flown out of the window," said a wildlife activist.

Lack of accountability and absence of disciplinary action against erring officials are the reasons leading to these encroachments, say experts.

"Forest department officials are not being held accountable for encroachment cases, instead are being promoted.

Range forest officers, assistant conservator of forest, deputy conservator of forest, chief conservator of forest are some officials that should be held accountable and must face disciplinary actions," added the conservationist.

Power use dips by 1,500 MW as compared to summer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

significantly by approximately 40% compared to the peak summer months. The daily average power consumption, which peaked at around 164 units in April and 127 units in May, has now reduced to an average of 109 units. This decline in power demand has provided much-needed relief to the power distribution companies, which faced challenges meeting the heightened demand during the summer.

"Agricultural pump sets, which typically consume more power than domestic and industrial connections, play a pivotal role in power consumption. During the summer months, farmers heavily rely on these pump sets for irrigation, resulting in elevated power usage. However, with favorable rainfall patterns, there has been a significant decrease in the utilisation of pump sets, leading to a notable reduction in power demand from the agricultural sector. This trend is expected to continue as the ongoing rainfall continues to support agricultural needs," said an official.

The official said residential power consumption too has declined due to reduced reliance on fans, air coolers, and air conditioners.

The state has witnessed a decrease in power demand by approximately 1,500 MW compared to the peak summer months. The daily average power consumption has dropped to 109 units from 164 units in April and 127 units in May. "This decrease in power demand has provided significant relief to the power distribution companies, which were facing challenges in meeting the heightened demand during the scorching summer months," the official added.

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Change of Name
I, Nithya.K.V W/o Sandeep R/o No.149, Sri Annapurneshwari Nilaya, Suryodaya Layout, Rajanukunte, Bangalore, Karnataka-560064, stating that, My son name is wrongly entered as Yuva Sandeep Patil in birth certificate. But since my son correct name is Yuva Sandeep, the concerned authorities have been requested to correct my son name as Yuva Sandeep in birth certificate. all the above information is correct and true. Therefore, I have sworn before Notary and Advocate G.R.Ravichandra Reddy, Bangalore vide affidavit dated 28.03.2024.

I, Manukumara Kn S/o Nanjegowda R/o No 117/92ff 2nd Floor Door No 202 Sorah - unase Village Varuthur Hobli Bengaluru 560087 have changed my name to Manukumar K N for all purposes.

I, Wajid Ali S/o Vali Dad Ali R/o, No12 Sanjeevini nagar Hegganahalli Cross Bengaluru 560091, have Changed my name to Wazid Raza Khan

I, SAKTHEESHWARI. S, W/o C Silambarasan, R/o A R Enclave, Flat No. 202, No. 216 1st Cross, Borewell Road Annasandra Palya Road, near ECI Church, Bengaluru - 560017, have changed my name as C. SAKTHEESHWARI, vide affidavit dated 15.07.2024 sworn before notary S. Subashini, Bengaluru.

I Ramamohan Hegde S/O, Ramachandra Hegde R/o No 67, Dharmasahree, 2nd Cross, Ramanna Gardens , Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru - 560097 have changed my name to Ramamohan Ramachandra Hegde.

I Priya Ugam Raj R/o No.72 Rama Iyengar Road , V V Puram Bengaluru-560004 have changed my name to Priya

I, Swarnalatha R/a #710, 6th Main, 9th cross, 3rd block, 1st stage HBR Layout, Bengaluru 560043. I have changed my name to Swarna Latha Parashivaiah. vide affidavit dated 13-07-24 sworn before notary H.S Sakalesh Aradhya Bangalore.

I Gayatri Hegde W/O, Ramamohan Ramachandra Hegde R/o No 67,dharmashree, 2nd Cross, Ramanna Gardens , Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru - 560097 have changed my name to Gayatri Ramamohan Hegde.

I, Saranya V R r/o #365, 2nd main, 5th cross, Near Vinayak School, Srinivas Nagar BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore - 560050 have changed my name to Saranya Ravichandran

I, Syed Saif Ali Syed Mustafa S/o Syed Mustafa R/o No:- 02 Guru Lakshmi Layout, Kambipura Kumbalagodu Bangalore 560005 have changed my name to Syed Saif Ali Mustafa for all purposes.

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 # Yes it is true
Amitabh Bachchan confirms son Abhishek Bachchan's role of antagonist in Shah Rukh Khan's 'King'

ALL EMOTIONS

When Katrina revealed that she cries a lot

Katrina Kaif celebrated her birthday on Tuesday and she's perhaps in the happiest phase of her life. It seems so, ever since she got married to the love of her life, Vicky Kaushal. Katrina and Vicky serve couple goals and Vicky's birthday post for her today was proof. The 'Masaan' actor dropped some mushy, unseen pictures with his lady love and wrote, "Making memories with you is my favourite part of life.

While birthdays seem like such a happy occasion, do you know that Katrina Kaif once revealed that she has cried on every birthday of hers?

Farhan Akhtar's chat show, 'Oye! It's Friday', "I cry a lot. It's pretty annoying." Farhan responded to it and asked her, "So, have you cried on every birthday or yours?" Reacting to it, Katrina said, "I think so! I think I have cried on every single one of my birthdays. I just get emotional and I cry about something happy. Or I cry about something sad. If there's nothing to cry about, I'll cry about that!"

> "I get emotional and I cry about something happy. Or I cry about something sad

While Katrina laughed at it, this clip went viral and it was so relatable to everyone. Well, one hopes that Katrina doesn't cry on this birthday. Vicky Kaushal had said at a press conference while promoting his film 'Bad Newz' that he is going to spend Katrina's birthday with her as they hardly get to spend time together these days amidst their busy schedules.

Katrina was last seen in 'Tiger 3' and 'Phone Booth'. —ETimes

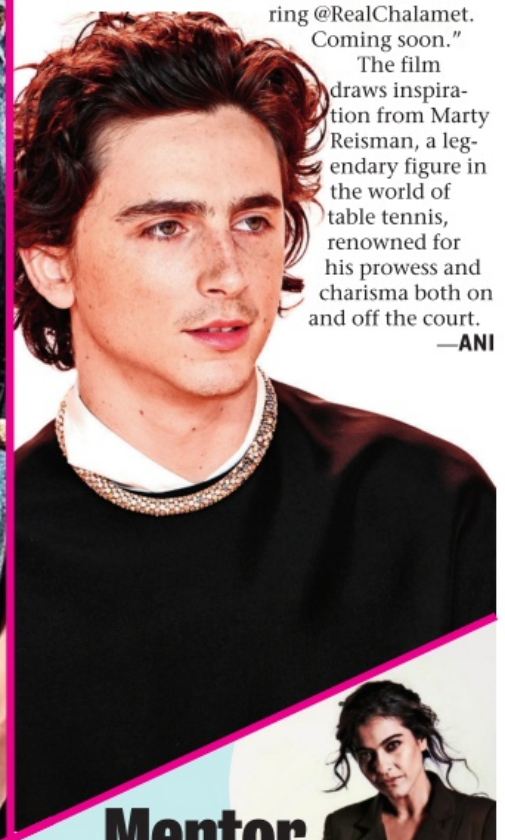
Playing ping pong

In an exciting development for film enthusiasts, Timothee Chalamet is gearing up to showcase his talents in an upcoming project helmed by Josh Safdie and A24.

Titled 'Marty Supreme,' the film promises to bring a fictionalised yet inspired narrative of ping pong champion Marty Reisman to the big screen, Variety confirmed. 'Marty Supreme,' scripted by Safdie and Ronald Bronstein, will not only feature Chalamet in a starring role but also mark his debut as a producer alongside Eli Bush and Anthony Katagas.

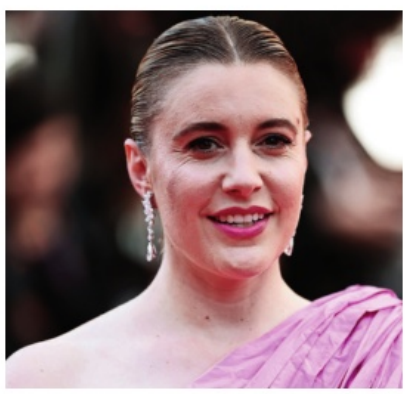
The collaboration reunites Safdie with A24, the studio behind his critically acclaimed films 'Uncut Gems' and 'Good Time.'

Confirming the news, A24 shared on social media, "Josh Safdie's MARTY SUPREME starring @RealChalamet. Coming soon."



The film draws inspiration from Marty Reisman, a legendary figure in the world of table tennis, renowned for his prowess and charisma both on and off the court. —ANI

Pioneer of the year



Greta Gerwig, the acclaimed filmmaker behind hits like 'Lady Bird', 'Little Women', and the Oscar-winning movie 'Barbie', is set to be honoured with the 2024 Pioneer of the Year Award by the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation (WRMPPF).

According to Deadline, the prestigious award recognises Gerwig's outstanding contributions to the motion picture industry, celebrating her leadership, community service, and dedication to philanthropy.

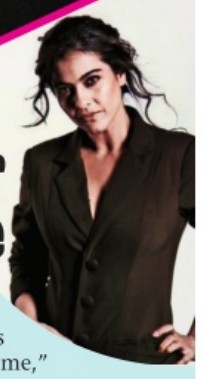
Jeff Goldstein, President of Warner Bros Domestic Distribution and Co-Chairman of the Pioneer of the Year Dinner, praised Gerwig as "a dynamic filmmaker with extraordinary vision who entertains and inspires audiences everywhere."

Kyle Davies, President of Distribution at Bleecker Street Media and Chairman of the Pioneers Assistance Fund Committee, expressed pride in honouring Gerwig's achievements and contributions to cinema, according to Deadline.

Gerwig's directorial prowess has garnered widespread acclaim, with 'Lady Bird' and 'Little Women' both earning multiple Oscar nominations, including Best Picture.

Her collaboration on 'Barbie', which she co-wrote with Noah Baumbach, made history as the first film directed solely by a woman to surpass USD 1 billion in global box office earnings, solidifying Gerwig's influence in the industry, Deadline reported. —ANI

Mentor and guide



Actress Samyuktha, who is all set to make her Hindi cinema debut with the film 'Maharagni - Queen of Queens', said that Kajol used to help her by giving cues to make things a bit easier for her in the movie.

Reflecting on her experience working with Kajol, Samyuktha, whose was last seen in Telugu film 'Virupaksha', said: "The opportunity to work with Kajol ma'am made it even more exciting for me. She is really sweet. Of course, I have grown up watching her films."

"It's so amazing and wonderful that I got the opportunity to work with her and see her in person. When we used to do scenes together, Kajol ma'am used to help me by giving cues to make things a bit easier for me," she added.

Samyuktha emphasised the special feeling of working alongside someone whose work she deeply admires.

"When you meet them in person, you realise they are even nicer," she shared.

An action thriller, 'Maharagni - Queen of Queens' marks the collaboration between Kajol and Prabhu Deva after 27 years.

The film also features Naseeruddin Shah, Jisshu Sengupta, Chhaya Kadam, and Pramod Pathak.

Samyuktha made her acting debut in 2016 with the Malayalam film 'Popcorn' and has since appeared in several film. —IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Painter to director

Harshapriya aka Raju from Bhadravathi is excited about the release of his maiden movie Hejjaru. The movie, billed as the first film in Sandalwood that explores the concept of parallel lives, is scheduled for release on July 19.

"I was working as a painter under my father who is a painting contractor. My passion towards Sandalwood made me come to Bengaluru. I worked as the script writer for a movie with Naveen Krishna in the lead. It is veteran actor Srinivasa Murthy who rechristened me Harshapriya," he said. He said Hejjaru revolves around two people. "The movies shows similar events that took place in the lives of two persons who belong to different time periods – 1965 and 1995," he said.

Recalling his association with small screen and silver screen, he said that he worked under lyricist-cum-music director K Kalyan and director Ravi Gharani and also as a fiction head at Zee TV.

Political drama

Around four decades ago, director CR Simha handled the megaphone for Simhasana. Now, another movie with the same title went on floors at Sri Gayathri Vishwakarma Temple at RPC Layout. Businessperson V Vijayanchandra sounded the clap board while politician Masti Gowda switched on the camera.

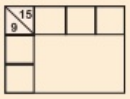
Chandru Nalrod of Chamarajanagar is making debut as a producer and a hero in Sandalwood with this movie. He is bankrolling Simhasana under the Muneshwara Productions banner. DR Dayanandaswamy from Tiptur will direct it.

"The movie is a political drama. It showcases what happens to an ordinary person if he dares to enter politics. It also highlights how youths are addicted to social media and how it is impacting society. Veteran character artistes have agreed to act in it. I am working hard to make this movie a success. We have decided to shoot in Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Channapatna," said Dayanandaswamy.

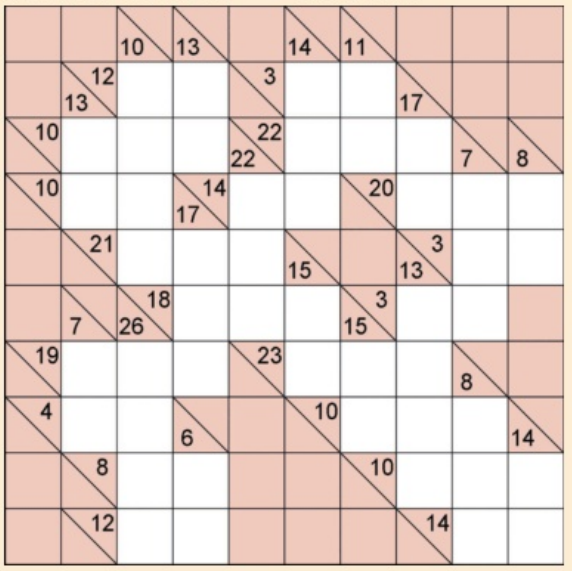
Nalrod said he has played small character roles in a few Kannada movies. "This is my first film as a producer and hero. I play a daily wager in it."

Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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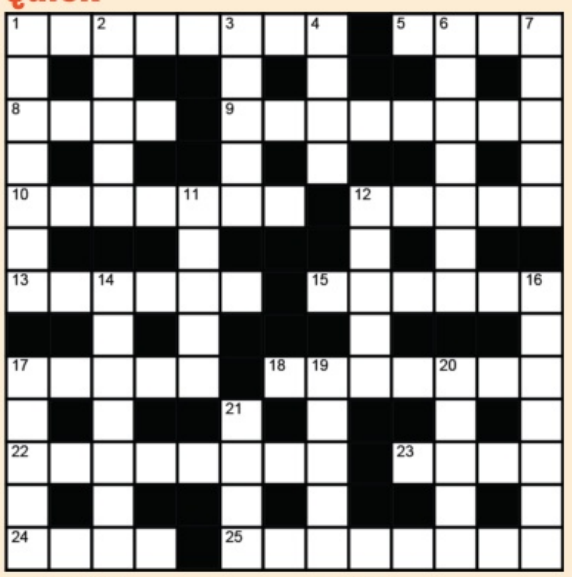


ACROSS

1 Maintain tempo (4,4)
5 Radiance (4)
8 Leaf of a book (4)
9 Preventing or obstructing (8)
10 Bullfighter (7)
12 Bullets (5)
13 M in M.P. or M.L.A.? (6)
15 Secret (6)
17 Worth, deserve (5)
18 Watch (7)
22 Lovable (8)
23 Help a felon (4)
24 Shut noisily (4)
25 One who makes a will (8)

DOWN

1 Said nothing? (4,3)
2 VIII for Virgil (5)
3 Spanish friend (5)
4 Sight (4)
6 At ___ : not occupied? (7)
7 Salaries (5)
11 Resided or stayed (5)
12 Retail outlets (5)
14 One of Malleshwaram's main streets (7)
16 Small loudspeaker (7)
17 Complains (5)
19 Makes beer (5)
20 Refute (5)
21 Adjoin (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS P

DXXC RUXRJU WVU DXXC KULWNZU MOUG'TU LXSU MX PEZCXS MOVXNDO IWEJNVU.

Linemaro

Let me tie your shoelaces. I don't want you falling for someone else

Mindchow

Opportunities can never be be lost... only seized by someone else

Joke of the day

If you can't fix it with a hammer, you've got an electrical problem

Loop

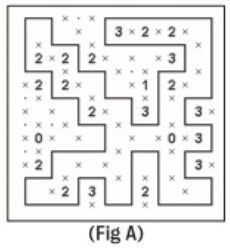
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

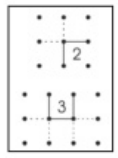
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

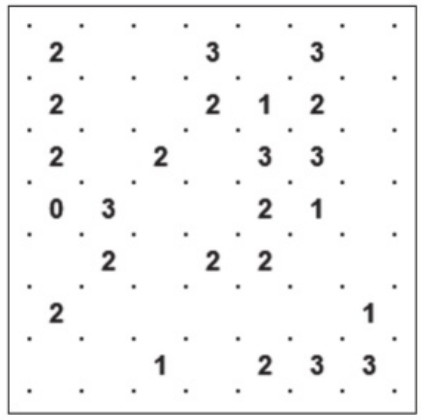
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



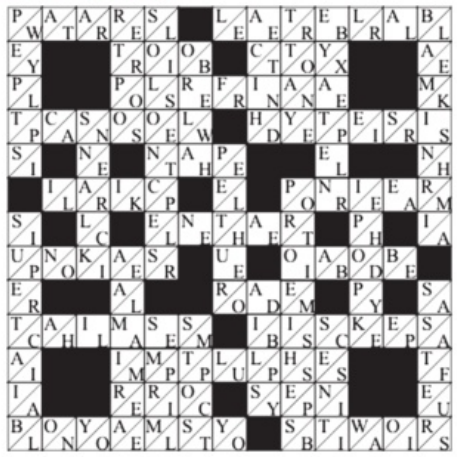
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



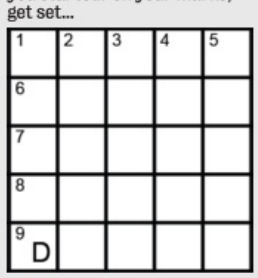
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Camps; 6 Goral; 7 Lanai; 8 Manat; 9 Dahls

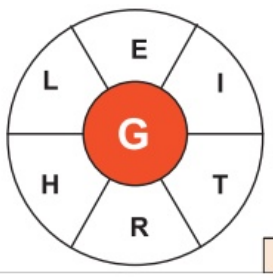
DOWN

1 Sad Al; 2 Crt hi; 3 Am Aga; 4 Lam on; 5 L span

Mensapuzzle

Decipher this dingbat:

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

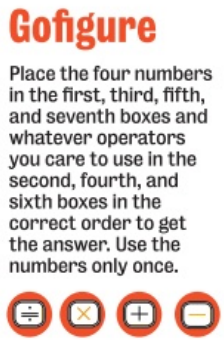
SudokuChallenge

8	5	9	6				7	
	3		9	4			6	
					1			
		3		6	8			
		6	7		4	8		
			3	1		7		
			4					
	7			5	9		2	
	6				7	1	4	9

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

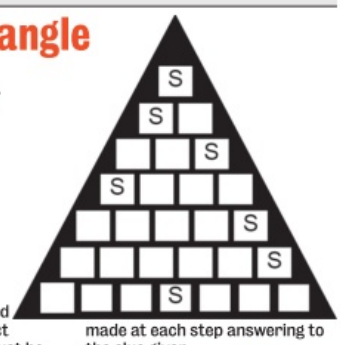
Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Sleeve is longer. 3. Tag is larger. 4. Jacket is missing. 5. Lapel is different. 6. Tie is different.

Riddler

What connects these four things?
Bulb, Ear, Spear & Stalk

Alpha triangle

1 Sulphur symbol
2 South East, abbr.
3 Article in Amiens
4 Dealer's deal
5 Is ahead
6 Grass pieces
7 Blew up



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

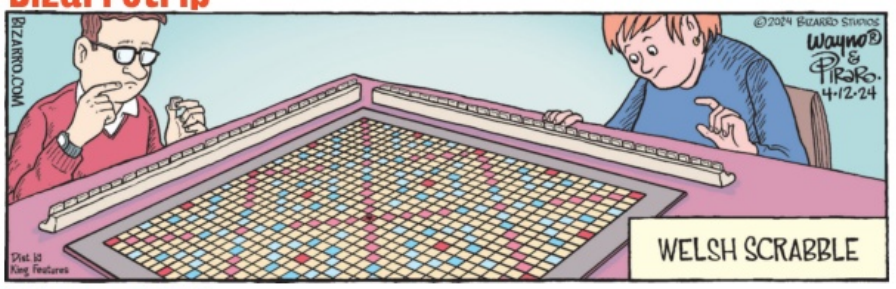
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

I JUST CAN'T THROW THE VENUS HEAD-PIECE INTO THE SEA!
I'LL TAKE IT HOME AND HIDE IT IN MY BUREAU DRAWER!
CLANK!
A DAY MIGHT COME WHEN POPEYE AND THE WORLD WILL NEED VELMA OF VENUS!
10-21

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

I HEARD ABOUT SOME SENIORS AT MY HIGH SCHOOL GETTING TOGETHER AND FIXING PARTS OF THE CITY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
MAYBE I CAN GET THEM TO FIX THE POTHOLES. AT LEAST THE ONES ON THE BUS ROUTE.
I NEED TO MEET THEM.
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ABIGAIL HOWELL
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Crankshaft

THESE ARE MY DAUGHTERS, PAMMY AND CHRISSY, AND I'M JUST SHOWING...
...MY GRANDSON, MITCH, THE LAST CASH REGISTER ON PLANET EARTH!
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, try to avoid spending your hard-earned money on worthless things as it may affect your savings. Also, refrain from expecting too much from those around you, as it could lead to disappointment and affect your relationships. You are advised to control your way of speaking while discussing domestic issues.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel energetic and strong internally. Your performance at work may be excellent, allowing you to complete tasks within the allotted time frame and bringing you happiness. You may also provide valuable advice to those in need. Your prestige is likely to grow, and you may achieve a balance between your domestic and professional life. Professionals in import-export, trading, and strategy analysis may perform well.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may find yourself caught up in fantasies that lead you towards hypothetical scenarios, making you indecisive and disturbed. This could affect your ongoing projects. Financial issues might also impact your work. It's advised to be practical and avoid daydreaming.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and your small investments may yield significant profits. Your efficiency at work may increase, leading to success with minimal effort. Positive news in legal matters is also likely, and you may have the upper hand over opponents and rivals.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, the moon blesses you, and your small efforts may lead to success. Past investments could bring good profits, and you may receive recognition for your hard work both professionally and domestically. Your prestige may rise, and you might innovate in your business. Disputes with your spouse may also be resolved.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel better as situations come under control. Your network may aid you professionally, and overseas travel plans may materialise. It's a good time for domestic harmony and love life improvement through creative endeavours. Consider bringing artistic elements into your home. Leisure activities like watching movies or outings with friends and family are favoured.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, overworking may leave you tired and careless. Patience is advised, and it might be wise to postpone adventurous plans. Past investments may not yield returns, and students should focus on hard work. Health issues such as backaches, nervous system problems, liver-related issues, and skin problems may arise.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, your creativity is heightened, possibly leading you to plan renovations at home or work. Harmonious domestic relationships may improve, settling disputes with friends, coworkers, and partners. Positive news may come regarding legal matters, enhancing social status through home or office improvements.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your creativity is high, and you may participate in creative events. Money stuck in past transactions may be recovered. Job seekers should update their skills, and students should increase academic efforts.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, sleeplessness may lead to dullness and scattered focus on your goals, affecting work efficiency. Visiting a religious place might provide solace, and blessings from elders could help you recognise mistakes and plan better. Take care of your parents' health.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, be cautious and drive safely, despite feeling rushed. Elderly blessings may help you navigate challenges successfully. You may experience more romance and harmony in your love life, with positive outcomes in new partnerships. Lovebirds can enjoy happy moments, and students may receive good academic news.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, your subordinates' cooperation may help you complete pending projects. Social events may expand your network, benefiting both work and social life. Outings with friends and resolving disputes may bring peace. Students are advised against carelessness.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
46 * [(93 / 3) * 29]
46 * (31 * 29)
46 * 899 = 41,354

BULL'S EYE
eight, gift, girl, girt, light, right, legit, girth, tiger

FAST FIVE

S	C	A	M	P
A	R	G	O	L
A	T	M	A	N
L	I	A	N	A
D	H	A	L	S

STRIKE OUT

L	O	Y	A	L	T	Y	S	T	A	I	R			
A		R	I	O		Y	E	N		E				
I		I	M	P	U	L	S	E		T				
C	H	I	M	E	S		B	I	C	E	P	S		
E		L		R	A	M		P		A				
P	O	K	E	S		E		O	B	O	E			
S		C		E	N	T	E	R		H		I		
L	A	I	C		E		P	R	I	A	M			
S		N		N	A	P		E			H			
T	A	S	S	E	L		D	E	T	E	R	S		
L		O	L	E	F	I	N	E			K			
E		I		S		M		S			A			
W	A	R	E	S		L	A	T	E	R	A	L		

QUICK

K	E	E	P	P	A	C	E		G	L	O	W		
E		I		M		S		E		A				
P	A	G	E		I	M	P	E	D	I	N	G		
T		H		G		Y		S		E				
M	A	T	A	D	O	R		S	L	U	G	S		
U		W		H		R								
M	E	M	B	E	R		C	O	V	E	R	T		
W		A		L										
O		G		A		R		E						
M	E	R	I	T		O	B	S	E	R	V	E		
E		L		R	A	M		P		A				
P	O	K	E	S		E		O	B	O	E			
S		C		E	N	T	E	R		H		I		
L	A	I	C		E		P	R	I	A	M			
S		N		N	A	P		E			H			
T	A	S	S	E	L		D	E	T	E	R	S		
L		O	L	E	F	I	N	E			K			
E		I		S		M		S			A			
W	A	R	E	S		L	A	T	E	R	A	L		

MENSA PUZZLE
skating-on-thin-ice

QUOTE UNCODE
Good people are good because they've come to wisdom through failure.

RIDDLER
They are all units of vegetables

SUDOKU

8	5	9	6	2	3	4	7	1
1	3	7	9	4	5	2	6	8
6	4	2	8	7	1	3	9	5
7	2	3	5	6	8	9	1	4
9	8	4	3	1	2	7	5	6
5	1	6	7	9	4	8	3	2
4	7	8	1	5	9	6	2	3
2	9	1	4	3	6	5	8	7
3	6	5	2	8	7	1	4	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, SE, Les, Sale, Leads, Blades, Blasted.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 - 7 + 6 + 4 = 11
Medium
9 - 8 x 1 x 7 = 7
Hard
5 x 5 + 6 + 5 = 36

KAKURO

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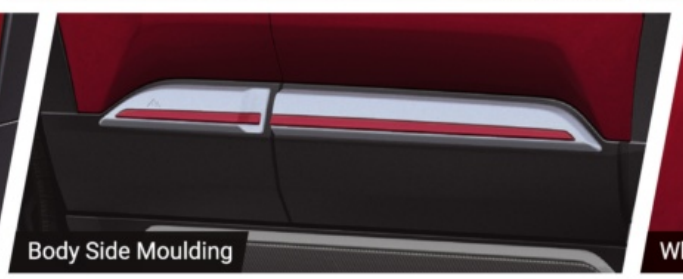
Front Skid Plate

Fog Lamp Garnish



Body Side Moulding

Wheel Arch Kit

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